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**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-fifth Session**

**Clustered interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Peaceful Assembly and
Association and the
Special Rapporteur on the right to education**

S t a t e m e n t

**delivered by Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev, First secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

June 6, 2017

Thank you Mr. President,

The delegation of Azerbaijan welcomes both mandate holders and thanks them for their comprehensive reports.

The right to education is essential for economic, social and cultural development of all societies. Despite certain progress, the world failed to meet the Millennium Development Goal of achieving universal primary education by 2015. According to the statistical data of 2013, 59 million children of primary school-age have been out of school. It is not coincidence that the Sustainable Development Goal 4 has been entirely devoted to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and it envisages to eliminate the existing disparities among different parts of the globe.

In order to achieve such ambitious goal, in our view, international community should attach particular attention not only to eliminate the current shortcomings, but also to address the underlying root causes of the problem. Armed conflicts are one of the major settings that create conditions conducive to the deprivation of the right to education. Azerbaijan is one of those countries population of which suffered from the violation of their basic rights to education due to the armed aggression by the neighboring country. The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan led to the creation of more than 1 million refugees and IDPs 25% of which were school-aged children who had been expelled from their native homes and schools and had been deprived of their right to education.

Most recently, in April 2016 Armenian armed forces launched guided missile attacks against civilian population and infrastructure of the Republic of Azerbaijan as a result of which 30 schools were destroyed, instruction were suspended in many other schools due to the fear of the resumption of attacks and 2 schoolchildren were killed. It once again demonstrated the urgency of the settlement of the conflict not only to achieve sustainable security at the region, but also to ensure the protection of the basic rights of the people.

Thank you Mr. President.